

30 April 1946

PLANNING DIRECTIVE NO. 26

SUBJECT: Proposal for the Establishment of a Central Photo Intelligence Agency

1. The Problem

a. A study, submitted by Captain Dudley P. Lee, Chief, Staff Service Photo Section, Army Map Service, was furnished the Central Planning Staff on 10 April by the Director of SSU in accordance with instructions of [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
Subsequently, at the request of Mr. McCormack, Captain Lee furnished two additional copies to Admiral Souers under memorandum of 22 April 1946.

b. By memorandum for Admiral Souers, dated 17 April, subject: Photographic Intelligence File in the Department of State, Mr. McCormack discussed a large file of photographs and negatives inherited by the State Department from the former Research and Analysis Branch of the Office of Strategic Services. Mr. McCormack's memorandum contained the suggestion that the Director of Central Intelligence should have a study made to recommend:

- (1) Procedures for the coordination of the collection, processing, filing and servicing of photo-intelligence materials.
- (2) Whether or not a photo-technical laboratory should be established to improve and maintain high technical quality of photo-intelligence materials.
- (3) To which agency the Department of State's photo-intelligence file would be transferred.

c. Captain Lee's study was briefed by the Policy and Review Branch in an informal memorandum dated 23 April. That memorandum, plus memorandums from Colonel Quinn, Captain Lee and Mr. McCormack referred to above, are enclosed under the original hereof for file in the Support Branch.

d. Copies of Captain Lee's study are herewith distributed for file in the Support Branch, Intelligence Branch and Information Branch, respectively. Upon conclusion of the study prescribed below, these Branches will turn their copies over to the Policy and Review Branch to be placed in the reference file.

2. Planning Requirement

a. A committee is hereby formed to consist of:

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